

Economic Commission for Europe

Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on the Transboundary
Effects of Industrial Accidents

Working Group on Implementation

Thirty-third meeting

Geneva, 1 February 2017

Annotated provisional agenda of the thirty-third meeting

To be held in Geneva, at the Palais des Nations,* on 1 February, starting at 9.30 a.m. and ending at 5.30 p.m.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of Chair and Vice-Chairs.
3. Organization of work in the biennium 2017–2018 and beyond.
4. Implementation of the Convention, including reporting.**
5. Engaging with countries on implementation issues.
6. Collection of good practices and exchange of information.**
7. Monitoring of the Assistance Programme.**
8. Other business.
9. Closing of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

This provisional agenda was prepared by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe secretariat.

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

The meeting will be opened and the Working Group invited to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

* The meeting will be held in room S4.

** These items will also be discussed during the joint meeting of the Bureau and the Working Group on Implementation (Geneva, 31 January 2017 (p.m.)).

2. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs¹

According to its amended terms of reference, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting, the Working Group on Implementation should elect its Chair at the first meeting following the meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Working Group might also decide to elect up to two Vice-Chairs.

3. Organization of work in the biennium 2017–2018 and beyond

According to the amended terms of reference, members of the Working Group are elected for four years. Also, the responsibilities of the Working Group have been strengthened to cover explicitly the engagement with Parties, the identification of good practices, the exchange of information and the monitoring of the Assistance Programme and its Strategic Approach. The Working Group at its meeting in June 2016 exchanged some ideas for its organization of work in the next four-year term and requested the secretariat to prepare such a proposal for discussion at the next meeting.

The secretariat will recall the key changes in the amended terms of reference of the Working Group on Implementation and present the proposed organization of work in the four-year term, based on the background document. The Working Group will be invited to discuss the proposal and agree on the organization of its work.

Documentation:

- Amended terms of reference of the Working Group on Implementation, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting
- Proposed organization of work of the Working Group on Implementation in the term 2017–2020

4. Implementation of the Convention, including reporting

According to paragraph 4 of the updated terms of reference of the Working Group on Implementation, the Working Group shall:

- (a) Monitor the implementation of the Convention;
- (b) Prepare the report on the implementation of the Convention, including conclusions, on the basis of the individual country reports, in line with article 23 of the Convention;
- (c) Make draft recommendations to strengthen the implementation of the Convention on the basis of the above report and submit these, through the Bureau, to the Conference of the Parties for adoption;

The secretariat will provide an update on the status of implementation reports received from Parties and committed countries and identify which reports are missing. The Working Group might wish to decide how to deal with the implementation reports received after the submission deadline for which the results could not be included in the eighth report on implementation.

In the eighth report on implementation, the Working Group proposed the establishment of an online reporting mechanism. The Working Group might wish to discuss the next steps in this regard, considering the allocation of available resources for this purpose.

¹ This agenda item will be discussed on 31 January 2017 at 12.30 p.m. in room S4.

In the light of the change from a two-year to a four-year reporting cycle, the Working Group might wish to discuss the detailed timeline and actions for initiating the ninth round of reporting under the Convention, including for updating the format and guidelines for reporting on the implementation of the Convention.

The Working Group may wish to discuss further actions to take to strengthen the implementation of the Convention, considering the recommendations and areas for follow-up from the eighth report on implementation and the decision on strengthening the implementation of the Convention, adopted by the Conference of the Parties.

Documentation:

- Eighth report on the implementation of the Convention (2014–2015) (ECE/CP.TEIA/2016/10)
- Decision on strengthening the implementation of the Convention (ECE/CP.TEIA/2016/11)

5. Engaging with countries on implementation issues

According to paragraph 4 of the updated terms of reference of the Working Group on Implementation, the Working Group shall:

(d) Engage with Parties, committed countries and other reporting countries where the Working Group becomes aware of possible difficulties in the implementation of the Convention, to understand the situation in these countries more accurately and to provide advice and make recommendations on the implementation of the Convention, share good practices and draw attention to existing guidance and tools.

According to paragraph 5, Parties, committed countries and other reporting countries will respond to requests by the Working Group further to item 4 (d) on a voluntary basis.

The Working Group may wish to discuss how to identify countries with possible difficulties in the implementation of the Convention and how to engage with them to strengthen their implementation of the Convention, including how to provide advice, make recommendations and draw attention to good practices, guidance and tools. Members of the Working Group, notably those involved in the review of the national implementation reports in the eighth round, will be invited to make proposals for countries and/or subregions to be approached. The Working Group may wish to discuss these proposals and prioritize which countries should be approached. The Working Group may also consider the possibility of organizing regular video- or teleconferences with focal points at its meetings and assigning subregions to its members for their subregional monitoring of the implementation of the Convention.

In addition, as this is an important new task for the Working Group, members might wish to discuss the need to establish a modus operandi and exchange ideas on what aspects might be covered.

6. Collection of good practices and exchange of information

According to paragraph 4 of the updated terms of reference of the Working Group on Implementation, the Working Group shall:

(e) Engage with Parties, committed countries and other reporting countries, based on the review of the national implementation reports, to gather information about innovations, good practices, national guidelines and other materials of interest;

(f) Identify good practices and facilitate the exchange of information among Parties and other countries.

According to paragraph 5, Parties, committed countries and other reporting countries will respond to requests by the Working Group further to item 4 (e) on a voluntary basis.

The secretariat will report on some good practices identified in the eighth report on implementation that were made available on the Convention website, including additional materials shared by Parties with the secretariat. The Working Group may wish to discuss how further to identify information from Parties and committed countries on their good practices and how to facilitate the exchange of information between among them on these. In this regard, the Working Group may also wish to review the related recommendations from the eighth report on implementation, particularly with regard to risk assessment methodologies (see paragraphs 42, 46 and 78 in the eighth report on implementation).

7. Monitoring of the Assistance Programme

According to paragraph 4 of the updated terms of reference of the Working Group on Implementation, the Working Group shall:

(g) Monitor the Convention's Assistance Programme, including the application of the Strategic Approach, and review national self-assessments and action plans;

(h) Review the substance and eligibility of project proposals submitted within the framework of the Assistance Programme and its Strategic Approach;

(i) Monitor the progress of assistance activities within the programme of work under the Convention and, if no progress is made in the implementation of the Convention, request the countries benefitting from such activities to provide an explanation;

(a) Effectiveness of the Assistance Programme

Following a request by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting (Geneva, 3–5 December 2014), the Working Group on Implementation, with the support of the Bureau and the secretariat, carried out an analytical review to determine whether there was sufficient information available to document and assess the effectiveness of the Assistance Programme. Based on the findings of that review (see ECE/CP.TEIA/2016/15), the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting agreed on the following three-step approach:

Step 1: The Working Group on Implementation should pursue in its next term a more rigorous approach to monitoring the Assistance Programme, in accordance with its updated terms of reference, to collect further information on and improve the implementation of the Convention by beneficiary countries;

Step 2: The Bureau, in cooperation with the Working Group, should request high-level feedback from beneficiary countries of the Assistance Programme with regard to their progress made and specific needs for future assistance. Based on this feedback and the conclusions and observations set out in the present document, the Bureau, in cooperation with the Working Group, should consider the further development of the Assistance Programme with regard to its design and appeal for both beneficiary countries and donors, including the possibility to organize a high-level meeting in the framework of the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

Step 3: Following the implementation of steps 2 and 3, the Conference of the Parties could revisit the issue at its eleventh meeting in autumn 2020.

With regard to the above, the Working Group might wish to discuss how to put in place a more rigorous approach to monitoring the Assistance Programme (Step 1) and how to

support the Bureau in requesting high-level feedback from beneficiary countries on their progress made and specific needs for future assistance (Step 2).

Documentation:

- Effectiveness, results and options for the further development of the Assistance Programme (ECE/CP.TEIA/2016/15)

(b) Status of self-assessments, action plans and project proposals

The secretariat will provide an update on the status of self-assessments, action plans and project proposals received as well as on its communication with Armenia and Montenegro, following the request by the Working Group at its June 2016 meeting. The Working Group may wish to discuss possible next steps.

Following a previous request by the Working Group, the secretariat will present a list with subregional capacity-building activities, clustered based on the needs-driven actions identified by more than one country in their national action plans submitted to the secretariat. The Working Group may wish to prioritize the actions on the list and share it with the Bureau, in line with its previous deliberations, for the Bureau's identification of financial resources to implement these activities and consideration when preparing the next workplan.

Documentation:

- List with subregional capacity-building activities

(c) Implementation of assistance activities in this and the next biennium

The secretariat will provide an update on planned assistance activities in the biennium, based on the Assistance Programme tracking table, including with regard to a bilateral project between Armenia and Georgia on the Debed River. The Working Group will be invited to consider the information presented and to provide substantive guidance on the implementation of activities, in view of its role in monitoring the Strategic Approach.

Documentation:

- Assistance Programme tracking table
- Draft project concept for a bilateral project between Armenia and Georgia

8. Other business

Members of the Working Group wishing to raise other business should contact the secretariat as soon as possible.

9. Closing of the meeting

The Chair will close the meeting at about 5.30 p.m. on 1 February 2017.
